(c) Government have repeatedly emphasized to other countries, including the US, that Pakistan's support to terrorist activiteis in India is continuing with the supply of arms, equipment, training and infiltration. This has also been stated by Indian representatives in international fora.

Visit of the Italian President to India

1311. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Italian President visited India in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, with the names of others who accompanied him;

(c) whether this visit was with some objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some issues of bilateral interest were discussed during this visit;

(f) whether India has been benefitted by this visit; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The President of Italy, Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, paid a State visit to India from 9-12 February 1995. He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, Minister of State for Foreign Trade Mario D'Urso, senior officials and a high-level business delegation. President Scalfaro interacted with the President and met the Vice President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Commerce Minister and the Miniser of State for External Affairs.

(c) and (d) This was the first ever Head of State level visit exchanged with Italy, and coincided with Italy's participation as "Partner Country" in the India Engineering Trade Fair (IETF) 1995 which was jointly inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Italy;

(e) to (g) The principal focus of discussions during the visit was on expansion of bilateral trade and economic relations. The Italian President underlined Italy's desire to strengthen relations with India in the political economic, scientific and cultural fields. He also stressed the importance of closer cooperation between India and Italy to confront the challenge posed by fundamentalism and terrorism. During talks between the Italian Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs, views were exchanged on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest. The Italian side reiterated their interest in receiving an early visit by the Prime Minister, as well as an Indian cultural manifestation in Italy to coincide with a future high-level visit from India. The visit of the Italian President has imparted further impetus to the intensification of Indo-Italian relations in diverse fields.

Indian Proposal for Non-Discriminatory Nuclear Ban Treaty

1312. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is discriminatory and only favours USA, Russia, UK and France:

(b) whether Government propose to take up with the Committee on Disarmament to start negotiations for a non-discriminatory treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons; and